



March 14, 2024

**To:** Parish Priests, Parish Life Directors, Catechetics/Religious Education Coordinators, Confirmation preparation teams, Confirmation Catechists

**From:** Koreen Hrizai, Coordinator of Catechetics

**Topic:** Information regarding the Celebration of Confirmation 2024

I am happy to provide you with this 2024 package of information which includes some important details for you and the candidates to have a most meaningful celebration of the sacrament:

Please find included in this package:

- ❖ Frequently Asked Questions
- ❖ Some details for the celebration of Confirmation with Archbishop Albert LeGatt presiding
- ❖ Sample letter to Candidates/Parents to assist in writing a letter to Archbishop LeGatt
- ❖ Short biography of Archbishop Albert LeGatt. D.D. and heraldry (coat of arms)
- ❖ A copy of the First Reading Second Reading and Gospel Reading to be used (except Sundays & Solemnities) are included 1<sup>st</sup> Reading Isaiah 42:1-3, 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Saint Paul's letter to the Ephesians 1:3a,4a,13-19a Gospel: John 16:5b-7,12-13a

I encourage you and your parish community to pray for these candidates and continue with real actions of support and encouragement for them and their families in the days before the celebration of the sacrament of Confirmation and for the years to follow.

As we continue together through the phases of the [Synod on Synodality](#), let us truly be a listening church, a church that “Enlarge(s) the space of your tent” (Is 54:2) and walks sincerely in hope with all. May this synodal process enrich God’s Holy Church and may we be people of prayer, preparing our parishes well as we look towards the [Jubilee 2025](#), truly being “Pilgrims of Hope.”

May Christ, through the Holy Spirit continue to reveal the great mystery of God’s infinite love and give us reason to hope and the words and actions to share hope abundantly.

Yours in Faith,

*Koreen Hrizai*



## Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Confirmation in the Archdiocese of Saint Boniface 2024

### **Do Confirmation candidates write a letter to the Archbishop and what should it say?**

It is a frequent practice for Confirmation candidates to write a letter to their archbishop during their time of preparation. *"The letter of the confirmands to the bishop is highly recommended. It is a stage in their journey that allows them to express to the bishop why they want to receive the sacrament of confirmation". (Clarification from Archbishop Albert LeGatt, September 2021)*

Attached is a letter for catechists or coordinators to personalize with some guidance for the writing of this letter. It is recommended that the catechists, pastors, or coordinators collect the letters and send the letters with a cover letter to the office of Archbishop LeGatt at least two weeks prior to the date of Confirmation. Digital copies are accepted by scanning letters and sending to [khризai@archsaintboniface.ca](mailto:khризai@archsaintboniface.ca) (Please send as one email from the parish catechist and identify the parish, not from individual candidates. Digital versions are still expected two weeks prior.)

Attn: Archbishop LeGatt, D.D. Re: Confirmation Letters

151 de la Cathédrale Avenue Winnipeg, MB R2H 0H6

*The cover letter should indicate the parish, some description of the confirmation group and a brief description of preparation. It may include personal witnessing or examples of growth in the candidates, families, or catechists through the process.*

### **Does the Archbishop sign the certificates given for Confirmation?**

Certificates may be signed by Archbishop LeGatt. Certificates (fifteen or less) may be signed at the parish just prior to the Confirmation Mass. A larger number of certificates (sixteen or more) should be sent to Archbishop LeGatt with the letters two weeks before with a contact name and number. Archbishop LeGatt's Executive Assistant, Claire David, will contact you by phone when the certificates are signed and may be picked up at the reception desk 151 de la Cathédrale Avenue. Please ensure the contact's name and number is included.

### **I heard that Confirmation candidates visit the archbishop, please tell me more about this.**

We have reinstated the in-person visits of the candidates grouped together with other parishes. This year (2023), we will not be having in person visits with Archbishop Albert and Confirmation Candidates. Your parish has received the date assigned, if you require some candidates to attend another date please plan with Koreen Hrizai in advance. It is important to note that candidates must be accompanied as they are minors, this is not a drop off gathering. For French candidates, please contact Diane Bélanger [dbelanger@archsaintboniface.ca](mailto:dbelanger@archsaintboniface.ca) directly.

### **What about readings for the Confirmation Mass, how do we know which readings will be proclaimed?**

The readings for Confirmation Masses are included as a second attachment. Readings on Sundays or solemnities will be the readings of the day. Please take time with the candidates and their families to reflect on the readings prior to the Mass. They will also be uploaded in the Catechetics section of the archdiocesan website.



### **Will Archbishop LeGatt use the sprinkling rite during the Confirmation Mass?**

Blessing the assembly with holy water: His Grace will respect what the priest has done at the Easter Vigil and on Easter Sunday, i.e.

- If the priest has blessed the assembly, His Grace will also bless the assembly either by walking through the aisle or simply from the sanctuary, depending on the desire of the priest and the person who is coordinating this celebration.
- If the priest did not bless the assembly, His Grace will also not do it.

Therefore, if the sprinkling rite is preferred, please have holy water in a vessel and aspergillum (sprinkling tool) prepared and available.

### **How should the candidates dress for the Confirmation Mass?**

Candidates are expected to dress in a clean and appropriate manner to gathering within the Christian community. In some parishes the use of albs or gowns has been the practice. This practice may continue as is with the suggestion that albs or gowns be white in colour in remembrance of the baptismal garment. This is also a visible way to emphasize the connection of baptism and confirmation.

### **What about the use of masks?**

Public Health orders at the time of preparation of this document do not require the wearing of masks for indoor spaces. Please follow public health orders, if in place. Candidates, sponsors, parents, and others may choose to wear a mask if they wish.

### **Will there be an entrance processional?**

Yes, an entrance processional may take place in the usual manner of the parish. Candidates may be part of the processional or may be in the pews, it is at the preference of the parish. The liturgical procession follows this order:

- Processional Crucifix or Cross
- (Optional) Candidates (candidates may go to the pew or remain and bow in unison to the altar with the celebrant, this should be determined prior)
- Book of the Gospels or Lectionary (Book of Gospels carried by deacon or Lectionary by lector)
- Concelebrating priest(s)
- Bishop, with deacon(s), if present

### **Is there a seating preference for the Confirmation candidates?**

Seating will vary depending on the architecture of the church. During the homily Archbishop LeGatt will dialogue with the candidates so seating should be conducive of this.

### **Will pictures or video be taken?**

This is a prayerful celebration and all those gathered are invited and entitled to engage fully without distractions. During the Mass pictures and/or video will only be permitted by one



person designated by the parish. This person should be available to meet briefly with Archbishop LeGatt before the Confirmation Mass. Immediately following the Mass, catechists or coordinators will organize one group photo and one individual photo for each candidate with Archbishop LeGatt. This must be done in a timely fashion. If a confirmand is not comfortable with a group photo that must be respected as usual. One photo per candidate with Archbishop Albert will be permitted.

### **Is there a gathering planned after the Confirmation Mass?**

A gathering afterwards in the parish hall may take place. Archbishop LeGatt may or may not be able to attend the gathering depending on the demands of the archbishop's schedule. Again, always adhering to public health orders that may be in place.

### **How will the laying of hands take place?**

Candidates will stand in their designated area. The bishop and concelebrants will pray the laying of hands from a suitable distance.

### **For the anointing with chrism, how will this proceed?**

Candidates with sponsors will come to Archbishop Albert for the anointing with chrism oil. Sponsors place their right hand over the right shoulder of the candidate. For the anointing with the sacred chrism, His Grace will touch the candidate's forehead. Archbishop Albert will dip his thumb in the Sacred Chrism oil and anoint the candidate in the usual manner. The candidates will be invited to grasp the crosier at the beginning of this part of the rite.

Sponsor (with right hand on right shoulder of candidate) : " I present <NAME OF CANDIDATE> "

Candidate reaches for and holds the crosier with Archbishop Albert

Archbishop Albert: "<NAME OF CANDIDATE> Be sealed with the Holy Spirit." (while anointing)

Candidate: "Amen."

Followed by the anointing a verbal exchange of words for the sign of peace will take place.

Archbishop Albert: "The Peace of Christ be with you."

Candidate: "And with your spirit."

### **\*\*\*How should we proceed for the Communion Rite?**

Please proceed in the usual manner.

*These commonly asked questions and answers are meant to assist you as you prepare within your individual parishes. Any specific questions or comments may be directed to the Koreen Hrizai, Coordinator, Archdiocese of Saint Boniface, Office of Catechetics and Adult Faith Growth.*



**Following are some details for the celebration of Confirmation within the Archdiocese of Saint Boniface with Archbishop Albert LeGatt presiding:**

***How is Confirmation celebrated?***

Confirmation will be celebrated within the Mass. Please refer to the Rite of Confirmation, a copy should be in your parish, or you may contact the Office of Catechetics and Adult Faith Growth for the English sector.

***Liturgy of the Word***

If confirmation is celebrated at a Sunday Mass, the Sunday readings are used. If confirmation is celebrated at another time, the bishop may choose from a large and rich selection of readings for celebrating confirmation. It is recommended that families and candidates study and pray with the readings that will be used in the celebration. You may receive the reading references from your catechist, coordinator, or parish priest during your preparation time once they are sent by Archbishop LeGatt.

***Presentation of the Candidates***

The celebration begins to focus on confirmation right after the gospel. Someone from the parish presents the candidates (refer to the “Rite of Confirmation”). If the group is not too large their names are announced. The candidates are asked to stand and remain standing until all candidates’ names are called.

***Homily or instruction***

Archbishop LeGatt then gives a homily, in the form of a dialogue with the candidates. This will include knowing the gifts and fruits of the Spirit as well as the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. *Many resources are available on our archdiocesan website to supplement the Confirmation program resources.*

***Renewal of baptismal promises***

After the homily, the candidates are asked to renew their baptismal promises. They might remember doing this at the Easter Vigil, at Easter Sunday Mass, or when infants are baptized at a regular Sunday Mass. It is done here to highlight the link between Baptism and Confirmation and Eucharist. The candidates will be asked to stand. Together the candidates answer, “I do” clearly and confidently to each question.

***Laying on of hands***

The bishop (or priest) then invites everyone present to pray with him on behalf of the candidates and everyone prays silently for a short period of time. Then he and any other priests extend their hands over the group and pray for them. The prayer asks the Holy Spirit to guide the candidates and asks for seven special spiritual gifts, known as the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Refer to the “Rite of Confirmation”.



### ***Anointing with chrism***

When the candidates come forward to the bishop, their sponsor and families accompany them. Next the sponsor places their right hand above their candidates' right shoulder and clearly tells the bishop the candidate's name (name tags clearly visible may also be used). Candidates may be reminded to make eye contact and be sure that their response is clearly audible throughout the ceremony.

*Note: the rite permits singing during the anointing. However, consideration should be given to silence so that all the faithful gathered may hear the words as candidates are anointed. Soft instrumental music may accompany the anointing. A hymn reflecting 'anointing' may follow immediately after the anointing has been completed.*

### ***Sign of peace***

Finally, the archbishop (or priest) says the word that Jesus said to his disciples the first time he saw them after he rose from the dead, when he breathed in them and bestowed the Holy Spirit on them saying, "Peace be with you." The candidate will answer, "And with your spirit." The candidates will receive instructions prior from the catechist, coordinator, or pastor about when to return to their seats.

### ***General intercessions***

The community then prays for the needs of the candidates and of the world using the same form as at Sunday Mass.

### ***Liturgy of the Eucharist***

The liturgy of the Eucharist begins. At communion time the reception of communion will follow that which is practical to the seating arrangements in the church.



**SAMPLE FOR LETTER (Copy and paste text, edit for your own community onto your own letterhead)**

Dear Candidates, Sponsors and parents,

The candidate seeking to be confirmed in the faith is encouraged to write a letter to Archbishop LeGatt. The points that should be considered when writing this letter are as outlined below:

1. It should be neatly handwritten or printed but may be typed out. If the candidate is using the computer for the letter, he/she may include graphics or photos as well to personalize the letter as much as possible. The purpose of the letter is to reflect and share with Archbishop Albert why they want to be confirmed. It can also be a way for Archbishop LeGatt to know the candidate better and know about their relationship with Jesus. Things like how the candidate lives out their faith daily, do they pray, what prayers do they like, what is enjoyed in Catechism classes, at Mass, or during religion class at school, is there a story from the bible or reading that they like a lot? Why? Let him know you and why you want to be confirmed. The letter should be sincere and from the heart of the candidate, but the candidate may talk about this with their parents, sponsor, or catechist if they choose.

2. The letter can be written in either English or French, whichever you prefer. It should not exceed two pages. You should address it: Dear Archbishop Albert LeGatt, or Dear Archbishop LeGatt, or Your Grace.

3. Some ideas to get you started...Share about your relationship with Jesus and your faith, why you think Confirmation is personally important for you. Why do you want to be confirmed? How do you wish to live out your faith today and in the future? Tell him what gifts that God has given to you to share with your family, your friends, your parish, and this world. You can use the gifts (see Isaiah 11:2-3, Catechism of the Catholic Church #1831) or fruits (see Galatians 5:22-23, Catechism of the Catholic Church #1832) of the Spirit to help guide you and offer other gifts or strengths that are characteristics that you have that are like Jesus. Share your hopes and dreams for living out your life as a baptized Christian and dreams for the future of the church and world.

4. You may want to thank him for reading your letter, or for the visit at the Cathédrale (you may thank him for praying for you or ask him to pray for you or someone you know (you may tell him you will pray for him or that you have prayed for him!))

Please give the letters to me by the next meeting date so that I may give them to Archbishop LeGatt with the letter I have describing our group.

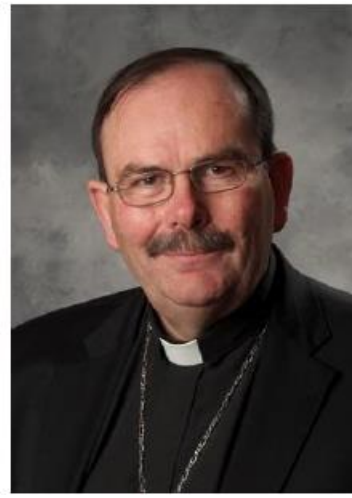
It is my hope that if you have any questions or concerns you will contact me or Father. The church community is here to support and encourage you to live out your call to Christ in baptism and spread the Gospel message as parents and young people.

The journey of faith we share leads us to witness in our parish community and our homes the goodness of God and peace of Christ to each other. May this time of preparation within your family give each of you the strength and desire to continue to seek out ways to deepen your own journey of faith. May it bring you greater awareness of the Holy Spirit ever present in our midst.

Yours in Faith,



## Short Biography: Most Reverend Albert LeGatt, D.D. Archbishop of Saint Boniface



Most Reverend Albert LeGatt was born on May 6, 1953 in Melfort, SK, to Joseph and Emma LeGatt and attended school at St. Brieux (1959-1967) and at Le Collège Notre Dame, St. Louis, SK (1967-1971).

He studied at Le Collège de St. Boniface (University of Manitoba) obtaining a Bachelor of Arts (with majors in Philosophy and French) in 1974.

For the next three years he served as a CUSO (Canadian University Services Overseas) volunteer in Ghana, Africa, teaching French in a secondary school.

He entered Le Grand Séminaire de Québec in 1977 pursuing studies in theology at l'Université Laval. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 19, 1983 by Bishop Blaise Morand in St. Brieux, SK. He served as assistant pastor, then pastor in a number of parishes in Prince Albert (1983-2000).

He pursued his studies in Pastoral Liturgy at the University Notre Dame, Southbend, Indiana, USA (2000-2001). He was involved in the Diocese of Prince Albert as co-ordinator of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission, Director of Vocations and Consultor.

He was named Bishop of the Diocese of Saskatoon on July 26, 2001 by Pope John Paul II and ordained on October 5, 2001 in St. Patrick's Church, Saskatoon, by Bishop Blaise Morand. He has served on the Catholic Aboriginal Council, the Episcopal Commission for Liturgy and the Episcopal Commission for Catechesis of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. He currently serves on the Episcopal Commission for Christian Unity, Religious Relations with the Jews, and Interfaith Dialogue.

On July 3, 2009 he was appointed Archbishop of the Archdiocese of St. Boniface, Manitoba.





## Heraldry Description of the Coat of Arms of His Grace Most Reverend Albert LeGatt, D.D. Archbishop of Saint Boniface



The **Colour Blue** evokes the Virgin Mary, principal patroness of the Archdiocese of Saint-Boniface under her title of the Immaculate Conception. It also represents the blue prairie skies.

The **Ermine** is found in the coat of arms of Brittany, the home of Archbishop Albert LeGatt's ancestors. This represents the heritage of Christian faith and Breton culture passed on from generation to generation.

The **Sheaf of Wheat** highlights Christ's teaching, *"Unless a grain of wheat dies, it remains only a single grain, but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest"* (John 12:24). It also highlights the Church's Eucharist wherein the scattered grains are brought together and made one bread to be shared so the Church itself might be brought together from the ends of the earth into the Kingdom. It also represents the prairie

provinces of Manitoba and Saskatchewan and Archbishop LeGatt's early farm background.

The **White Band** at the middle of the coat of arms represents the Red River. It was on the banks of the Red River that Bishop Joseph Norbert Provencher, first bishop of Saint-Boniface, established the first Catholic mission in the Canadian West. It also represents the waters of baptism and the abundance of new life in Christ given to us through this sacrament wherein we are made members of the Body of Christ forever.

The **Dove** is the symbol of the Holy Spirit, source of the Church's unity in its faith, hope and love (Ephesians 4:2-6).

The Motto: **Ut Unum Sint, "That They May Be One" (John 17:22)** highlights the prayer of Christ and the ministry of the Archbishop called to be servant and presider of the Church's unity in Christ. This motto was chosen at his ordination to the priesthood in June 19, 1983 and has always guided his ministry.

The **Hat with Ten Tassels** on either side of the Metropolitan Cross is an emblem of the hierarchical status of the archiepiscopal office.

The **Pallium** is the sign of the archiepiscopal ministry in union with the Holy See of Rome.



*First Reading **Isaiah 42:1-3***

*I have put my spirit upon my servant.*

A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord:

“Here is my servant, whom I uphold,  
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;  
I have put my spirit upon him;  
he will bring forth justice to the nations.  
He will not cry or lift up his voice,  
or make it heard in the street;  
a bruised reed he will not break,  
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;  
he will faithfully bring forth justice.

The word of the Lord.



*Second Reading Ephesians 1:3a,4a, 13-19a*

*You were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.*

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

He chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world.

In Christ you also,

when you have heard the word of truth, the Gospel of your salvation,

and had believed in him,

were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.

This is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption

as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus

and your love toward all the saints,

and for this reason,

I do not cease to give thanks for you

as I remember you in my prayers.

I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory,

may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him,

so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened,

you may know what is the hope to which he has called you,

what are the riches of his glorious inheritance?

among the saints,

and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power

for us who believe.

The word of the Lord.



*The Gospel Reading **John 16: 5b-7, 12-13a***  
*The Spirit of truth will guide you into all the truth.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Now I am going to him who sent me;  
yet none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’

But because I have said these things to you,  
Sorrow has filled your hearts.

Nevertheless I tell you the truth:

It is to your advantage that I go away,  
the Advocate will not come to you;  
but if I go, I will send him to you.

I still have many things to say to you,  
But you cannot hear them now.

When the Spirit of truth comes,  
he will guide you into all the truth;  
for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears,  
and he will declare to you the things that are to come.”

The Gospel of the Lord.